

WASHINGTON (AP)-U.S. MILITARY ANALYSTS BELIEVE THE ISRAELIS CAN PUSH EGYPTIAN AND SYRIAN FORCES OUT OF THE SINAI PENINSULA AND THE GOLAN HEIGHTS AREA, BUT AT "A VERY CONSIDERABLE COST."

DEFENSE DEPARTMENT AND OTHER U.S. GOVERNMENT ANALYSTS ARE NOT SAYING THE TIDE HAS TURNED FOR THE ISRAELIS, AS SOME ISRAELI GENERALS CLAIMED MONDAY.

"THE ISRAELIS ARE PROCEEDING ABOUT AS EXPECTED, BUT THEY ARE BEHIND SCHEDULE," ONE OFFICIAL SAID. "THE ARABS ARE DOING BETTER THIS TIME THAN THEY HAVE IN THE PAST."

THE KEY TO SWIFT ISRAELI VICTORY IN THE 1967 WAR WAS ITS MASTERY OF THE AIR, GAINED IN A SURPRISE PREEMPTIVE STRIKE CATCHING MUCH OF THE ARAB AIR FORCE ON THE GROUND. THIS AIR DOMINANCE PERMITTED COORDINATED WARPLANE AND ARMOR ASSAULTS THAT DECIMATED EGYPTIAN TANK AND INFANTRY UNITS.

BUT THIS TIME, U.S. SOURCES SAID, THE ISRAELI AIR FORCE HAS HAD SERIOUS PROBLEMS TRYING TO KNOCK OUT SOVIET-BUILT SURFACE-TO-AIR MISSILES MISSING DURING THE 1967 SIX-DAY WAR--ON BOTH THE EGYPTIAN AND SYRIAN FRONTS.

UNTIL THESE MISSILES ARE NEUTRALIZED, ISRAELI WARPLANES CANNOT RANGE FREELY AGAINST EGYPTIAN AND SYRIAN ARMOR AND INFANTRY FORMATIONS. SOURCES SAID THAT ABOUT 35 OF THE APPROXIMATELY 40 ISRAELI WARPLANES LOST THROUGH MONDAY NIGHT FELL TO SURFACE-TO-AIR MISSILES, PRINCIPALLY THE LETHAL SAG, DESIGNED TO DEAL WITH LOW-FLYING AIRPLANES.

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WASH--ADD PENTAGON-MIDEAST (98)

THE EGYPTIANS AND SYRIANS ARE REPORTED TO HAVE LOST ABOUT 100 WARPLANES, SOME ON THE GROUND WHEN ISRAEL ATTACKED FIVE EGYPTIAN AIRFIELDS AND SOME SYRIAN FIELDS.

IF THE REPORTS ARE ACCURATE, EACH SIDE WOULD HAVE LOST MORE THAN 10 PER CENT OF ITS AIR STRIKING POWER.

ACCORDING TO INTELLIGENCE ASSESSMENTS REACHING WASHINGTON, THE EGYPTIANS HAVE PENETRATED THE SINAI ALONG AN IRREGULAR FRONT RANGING FROM FIVE TO ABOUT 15 MILES EAST OF THE SUEZ CANAL, SHORT OF ISRAEL'S MAIN SINAI DEFENSE LINE BASED IN KEY PASSES THROUGH HIG GROUND.

THE EGYPTIANS WERE SAID TO HAVE SOME 70,000 MEN AND BETWEEN 600 AND 800 TANKS, SOME POWERFUL SOVIET-MANUFACTURED T62 MAIN BATTLE VEHICLES, IN THE SINAI.

THE ISRAELIS HAVE CLAIMED TO HAVE KNOCKED OUT ABOUT 11 BRIDGES THE EGYPTIANS THREW ACROSS THE CANAL SATURDAY, BUT UNDER COVER OF DARKNESS, THE EGYPTIANS FLOATED PONTOON BRIDGES, PERMITTING REINFORCEMENTS AND SUPPLIES TO CROSS THE CANAL, U.S. SOURCES SAID.

THE PROBABLE ISRAELI STRATEGY, IF SURFACE-TO-AIR MISSILES AND ARTILLERY ON THE WEST SIDE OF THE SUEZ CANAL CAN BE SUPPRESSED, WOULD BE TO ISOLATE, ENVELOP AND TRAP THE FIVE EGYPTIAN DIVISIONS IN THE SINAI.

ON THE SYRIAN FRONT, U.S. EXPERTS SAID, FIVE SYRIAN DIVISIONS AND AN ESTIMATED 800 TANKS OPPOSE THE ISRAELIS.

ARMOR LOSSES ON BOTH SIDES HAVE BEEN HEAVY, WITH REPORTS TO THE PENTAGON SPEAKING OF 300 SYRIAN TANKS AND ABOUT 150 ISRAELI TANKS KNOCKED OUT THROUGH MONDAY NIGHT.

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